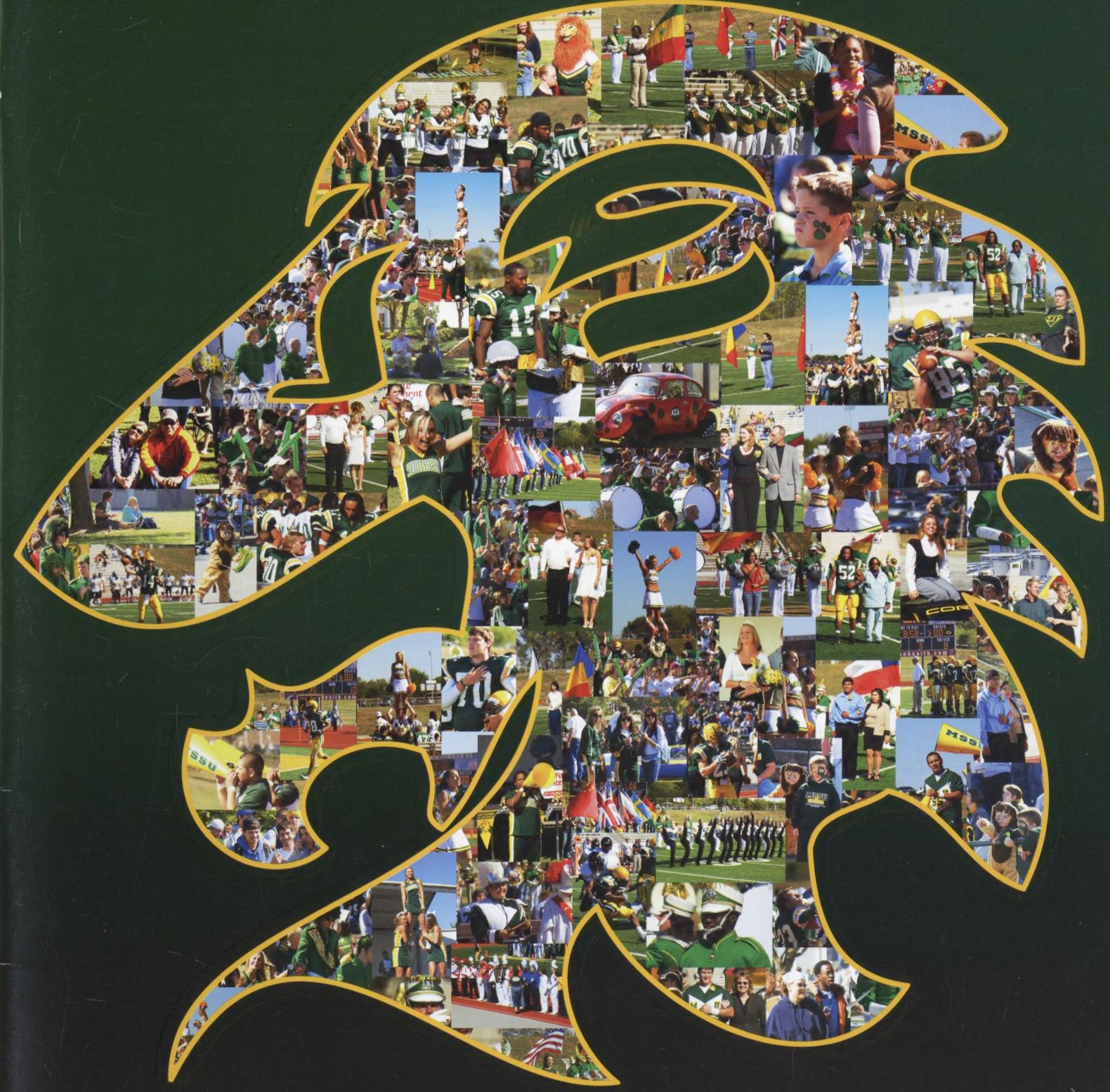
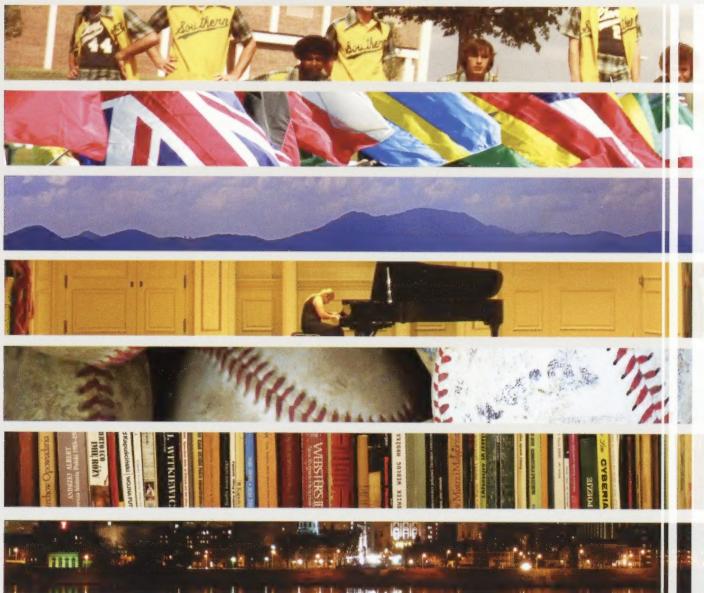


# crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2007



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# crossroads

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NOTE: Crossroads is written and designed by students and alumni and published three times a year. The views expressed do not represent those of the student body, faculty, staff or administration or Missouri Southern State University.

## A Message from the Alumni Director



Welcome to the second issue of the new version of *Crossroads* magazine.

We are pleased to help keep you connected to Missouri Southern by offering you a variety of articles representing our alumni activities and what is happening on campus today. The Alumni Association's strategic plan to better serve its constituents deserves credit, in part, for the magazine's revised format.

Our campus' history and tradition are important to us. On May 18, 1945, alumni gathered together for an alumni-student banquet and to set up the new Alumni Association.

Today, the Alumni Association serves — and is served by — more than 21,000 alumni, a number that increases annually with approximately 800 new graduates and new members from earlier classes. Alumni reside across the United States and around the world, strengthening the association and, ultimately, the university.

In this edition, you will note that Missouri Southern will be celebrating its 70th year of Lion Pride. We encourage you to mark your calendars for Homecoming weekend — Oct. 12 and 13. If it has been awhile since you have visited the campus, we invite you to come back to Missouri Southern to visit with old friends, create new friendships and see the exciting changes on our campus.

Soon, you will be able to return "home" on campus and visit your Alumni Association in its new location, the Mission Hills Mansion. This project is one of many that have been created out of the Alumni Association's strategic plan.

We appreciate the many ways our alumni and friends have helped Missouri Southern with these and many other accomplishments. Our Alumni Relations Coordinator, Elisa Bryant, '04, and I are here to serve you. Please keep in touch and let us know how your Association can better serve your needs.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86  
Alumni Director  
Missouri Southern State University



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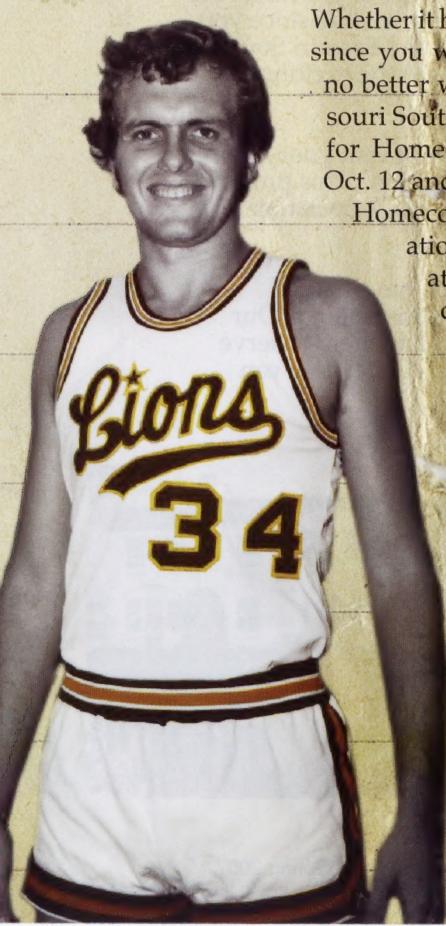
*Eric Norris*

# celebrating 70 years

## Save the date for Homecoming 2007

During Homecoming week, festivities unite current students, alumni, staff and faculty, continuing their *connection for life* to Missouri Southern.

by Lee Elliff Pound, '86



Whether it has been five years or 70 years since you were back on campus, there's no better way to celebrate being a Missouri Southern alumnus than returning for Homecoming weekend, slated for Oct. 12 and 13.

Homecoming is the Alumni Association's biggest event of the year, attracting our alumni back to campus. Alumni, their families and friends are invited to this annual fall event. The alumni staff works with all campus and alumni groups to put on the fun-filled weekend, packed with more activities every year.

This year's Homecoming events will celebrate 70 years of Lion pride - '70's style! The weekend will begin with the annual Homecoming

picnic, located on the Oval. Friday night, the Alumni Association will host the annual Alumni Awards Dinner, featuring the Outstanding Alumni and Lion Hearted recipients. Saturday's Lion Pride Brunch will feature the 2007 Hall of Fame inductees, followed by the Homecoming Parade through campus. Kick-off against the Fort Hayes State University Tigers will be at 2 p.m. at Fred G. Hughes Stadium.

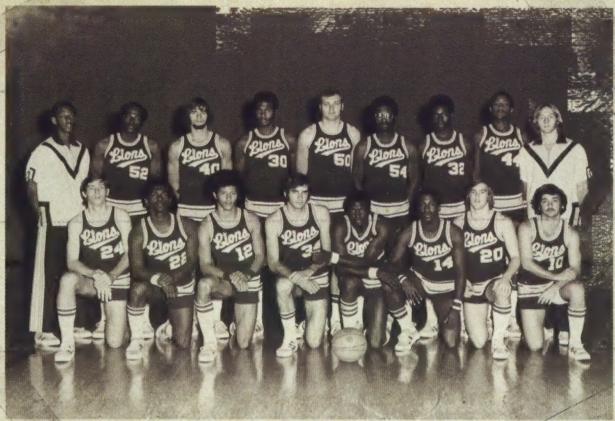
An exciting new tradition was established in 2006. An Alumni Band featured former Lion Pride Marching Band members to perform with the current band at pre-game. The band participated in playing The Star Spangled Banner and the Missouri Southern fight song. Those interested in participating this year should contact the Alumni Association at (417) 625-9355.

Come back to see what's new and what has remained the same. Share the weekend with family, friends and your fellow classmates.

It's a great way to get reacquainted with the University and celebrate some of the most memorable moments of your life. Mark your calendar and save the date for Homecoming 2007. We can't wait to welcome you back home.



# Years of Lion Pride



Let the Good Times **ROAR** ....

# Homecoming



## My Internship with the MSSU Alumni Association

A personal reflection by Ashley Hendrix-Roe, '06



"While everything might have looked spectacular from the outside, you can't imagine the work it took to pull the project together."

Oh, how I will miss the clutter and excitement of the Alumni Office!

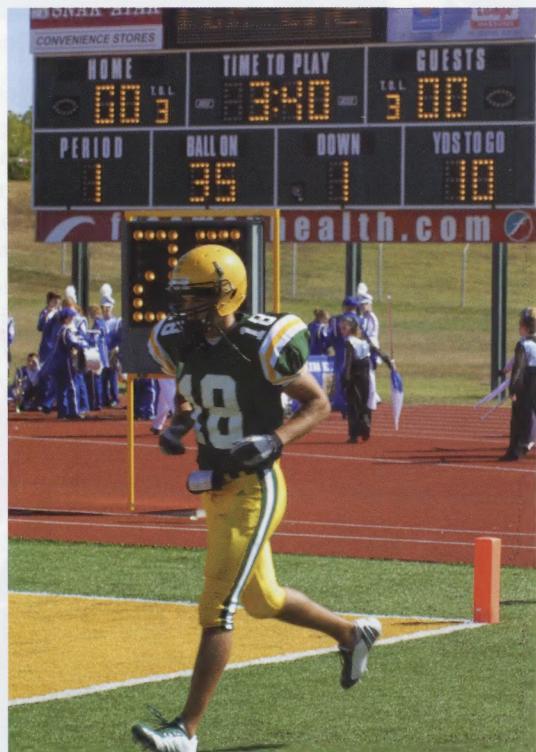
As an intern at the Alumni Office for the fall 2006 semester, I realized that the clutter and bustle was simply a cover-up to the sense of family and opportunity the Alumni Association had to offer me.

There was never a dull moment in the Alumni Office. We worked year 'round on Homecoming. The months of August, September, and October were a constant fight for time. It never seemed like there was enough time in the day to do everything that needed to be done.

However, it all came together when we got down to the big day. The Alumni Awards Dinner on Friday night was beautiful and a complete hit. The Lion Pride

# ing 2006

"We finally had a chance to slightly relax and look back on the weekend's events."



Brunch on Saturday turned out to be bigger than expected, and it was so great to hear the acceptance speeches from the Hall of Fame inductees.

While everything might have looked spectacular from the outside, you can't imagine the work it took to pull the project together. Everyone had to think on their toes every minute throughout the week. Homecoming was definitely a stressful time, but it taught me patience to work with others and, even more importantly, how to function on no sleep and no food!

Homecoming was stressful, but when the following Monday rolled around, we were still friends in the Alumni office. We finally had a chance to slightly relax and look back on the weekend's events.

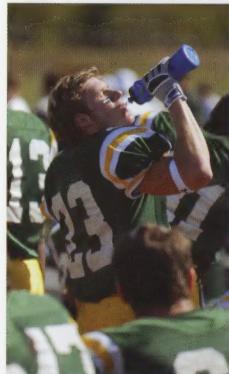
I knew I would not be around to help with Legacy Day

in February, due to my glorious, splendid, and wonderful departure after graduation in December, but I wanted to have the majority of the work taken care of for the office. Therefore, I worked on the letters, news releases and the many other details that come with planning an event like that. It was a fun experience, especially because I was helping establish another tradition for our Missouri Southern families.

Working in the Alumni Office gave me the opportunity to help produce events that bring our alumni together to remember the fun they had while at Missouri Southern, and helping them celebrate those times today on our campus.

I learned that our office remembers so many of its alumni personally...through letters, phone calls or correspondence that we received in our office.

"Interning at the Alumni Office was most definitely the first step down my road to success. And for that, I am so very thankful."



Soon, the Alumni Association will be moving to its new home in the Mission Hills Mansion. While the new Alumni Office will be much bigger and nicer, I know that some things won't change. The Alumni Office employees will meet and greet each alumnus individually and warmly when they return back to Southern's campus.

Interning at the Alumni Office was most definitely the first step down my road to success. And, for that, I am so very thankful.

*Editor's Note: Ashley Hendrix-Roe, '06, received her B.A. in Public Relations in December 2006. She ran cross country and track and field. Hendrix-Roe was also the 2006 Homecoming Queen.*



# Lessons from Brazil



Story and photos by Kaylea Hutson, '94



Like most stories, this tale has a beginning and a middle. Unlike fairy tales, though, the ultimate ending has yet to be written as I continue to process the many experiences. The story begins with an idea that formed after I wrote a column about Mark Mayberry and the legacy he helped to establish in Maceio, Brazil. Mayberry, a Joplin contractor, helped organize and develop an orphanage in Maceio for the "throw-away" boys of that region. Before he died in May 2006 from cancer, Mark was able to travel to Brazil to visit the orphanage and see its progression from a dream to reality. When I sat down to talk with Debbie, Mark's widow, for the first column, I was immediately intrigued by the ministry Mark helped establish for boys without homes. During that meeting, Debbie told me about her plans to visit Maceio in October 2006 — her first trip without Mark. As I drove back to the office following our interview, I began to mull the numerous Joplin connections in both Maceio and the orphanage. I joked with her by e-mail that it would be fun to cover her trip, but I knew I'd have to find some creative financing to pay for my expenses. Somehow I knew a trip to Brazil wouldn't be in our newsroom budget. The idea was simply one of those "Crazy Kaylea" ideas that I am famous for. Just ask my colleagues. A lot of times, they simply roll their eyes and say, "Ok, Kaylea, if you think it will work, go for it." The encouragement pretty much ends there. But as I soon learned, sometimes those crazy ideas generate amazing results. Shortly after the column was published, Debbie called and asked me if I had a passport. When I replied "No," she said "Well go get one, because I found someone to pay for your trip." Stunned, I hung up the phone and began my whirlwind preparations for a trip to Brazil. With that notice, I sent away for my first passport — which arrived with water damage. Fortunately, the second passport arrived in enough time to apply for an entry visa.

Because of a crazy idea, I was able to visit another country and see first-hand what people in Joplin had helped to establish in Brazil. Many people, including my benefactor, have walked on the sandy streets around the orphanage, because they have a desire to help people without many options.

## Meeting My Benefactor

In 1999, at the age of 69, Bill took his first mission trip with Mark Mayberry. He decided to step outside his comfort zone to see what life was like outside the United States. Standing in a muddy field in Brazil, Bill said he

made a decision to do whatever he could to promote God's blessings. Since his first trip in 1999, Bill has taken 15 more trips to locations within the United States and around the world. After doctors told him he could not travel because of health concerns, Bill turned his attentions to helping from his Joplin home. When he learned from Debbie that I might be interested in traveling to Brazil, Bill said he knew what to do. "I thought 'You can't go on trips anymore. You need to help somebody willing to go down there,'" he explained. "It's kind of like being the pebble in the water." Each ring gets a little bigger, and touches someone else." Bill said if he couldn't go to Brazil, he would do the next best thing and send someone in his place. In this case, me.

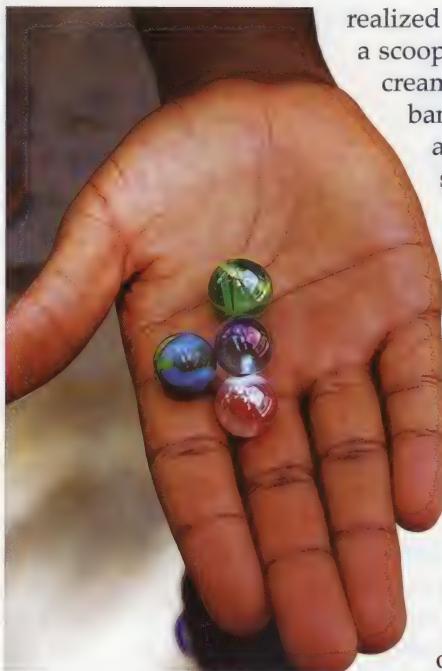
## Brazilian Experiences

At times, my trip to Brazil seems like a dream. It still seems a bit surreal that a "farm girl" from Missouri could travel to another country. Throughout my trip, I kept a travel blog for JoplinDaily.com. I also sent back "Flat Stanley" e-mails to a fifth grade class in Joplin. Meeting the boys was an amazing experience. Twenty boys, between the ages of 7 and 17, live at the orphanage. Boys who once lived on the street have found a safe haven within the compound's walls. One student told me he was placed at the home after running away from an abusive grandmother. He hopes to become an attorney. That dream hinges on if he can make up for missed educational opportunities. His brother has the skills to become a professional soccer player if he can continue his lessons. Other boys face numerous challenges because of physical and mental disabilities they developed from malnutrition and abuse. Some may never completely recover. One evening during my visit, an overnight house parent was called away unexpectedly. The orphanage directors asked if I would sleep in the youngest boys' room and care for them if something happened during the evening shift. It was the longest night and best morning of



# "I left part of my heart in Brazil"

my life. I could barely sleep, worried something might happen with my five young charges. Of course, nothing did. In the morning, as the boys realized the "Americano" was in the room, the giggles and antics began. They thought it was such a treat to have me stay in their "home." I soon realized that having an "Americano" anywhere in the orphanage or around the small town was a novelty. One afternoon, I drove the Kombi through the streets as Janette (one of the directors) told people about an event at the local church. I soon found out she was using me as a propaganda tool — her words, not mine. Basically, her comments included "come to the church and meet the Americans." Most of my memories from Brazil revolve around the children who passed through my life. My heart broke the day I stood outside the orphanage gate and saw how excited the children got when we bought them ice cream. One morning, I walked down to the local store and purchased a freshly baked sweet roll. Before I could eat it, I was surrounded by hungry children. I gave them the roll. I watched as one of the older girls divided it among every child. I saw the same sharing attitude take place as I gave the boys their presents. I took a pound of marbles, thinking they might like to have some new ones. I expected them to be a "group" gift. But one of the boys made sure each had at least one, if not three, new marbles. Several of the boys carried those tiny pieces of colored glass everywhere. Even in the pool. They did not want to be parted from their new gift. Another lesson came through an ice-cream party we held for the boys' orphanage. While the 20 boys living at the facility know they will have three basic, simple, meals each



realized that they could not only have a scoop of two different flavors of ice cream, but they could also have bananas, chocolate sprinkles and a mixture of chocolate and strawberry toppings. They grew even more excited as they learned that their treat included seconds and, for some, thirds. It's amazing how much ice cream 20 boys can eat in less than 30 minutes. Towards the end of the party, one young boy, Henrique, came in for seconds. We did not give it a second thought and gave him an additional treat. We finished putting everything away, boiled water to wash our dishes and prepared to leave the kitchen. There we

were greeted with a heart-breaking sight. Henrique was so excited about having the ice cream that he was sitting at the table, slowly finishing his sundae. By now, the ice cream had turned into a chocolate puddle. He didn't care. It was still a treat and he was going to enjoy every spoonful. Most American children would have turned their nose up at what Henrique was savoring. As I write this, now three months after my trip, I continue to see things in America in new ways. I will never take for granted things like running water, electricity and other essentials of life. My trip to Brazil opened my eyes to a new culture. It helped me realize what a blessed life I live here in Missouri. It has changed me in many ways. I left part of my heart in Brazil. Someday I hope to return to the orphanage to spend time with Henrique, Tuca, Wilker and Gabriel. And others. Until then, I'll look at my passport and dream of future trips and adventures.



day, extras like sorvette (ice cream), pizza or even cake, are considered luxuries. During our stay, we purchased several quarts of ice cream and the related toppings, to create a sundae bar for the boys. It wasn't really that unusual. I've made similar spreads for youth groups I've worked with in the United States. The boys' eyes grew wide as they

- Persons wanting to read more about Kaylea's adventure can visit her blog at [kaytebug2002.blogspot.com](http://kaytebug2002.blogspot.com). It has more than 30 related entries about her experiences.

# maceio



Appearance from left to right: Alan | Bendito | Erielton | Vincenti | Wilker | Lucas | Marcos | Anderson | Mikael | Fernando  
Givaldo | Samuel | Jenil | Francisco | Rafael | Alan | Henrique | Jeilton | Tuca | Arthuru

# BIG LEAGUER

by Erik Schrader, '90

**I**t still comes up, often in introductions.

"It's an excellent conversation starter," says Ken Grundt, now 37 and working as a financial advisor in Scranton, Pa.

"It" happened more than 10 years ago, when Grundt became the first — and to this point only — Missouri Southern athlete to play major league baseball.

Grundt came to Southern in 1987 from Chicago, steered to the Lions by former Illinois pitching coach Ted Flora. He found plenty of Chicago-area players already on the Lions.

"As it turned out one of the Lions, Tony Tichy, was on my Legion team back in Chicago. It shook out really well; that was the entry year for Tichy, me, Tim Casper.

We were inherited by a bunch of other Chicago guys as well — Jim Baranoski, Mike Stebbins, Mike Swidler."

Grundt excelled both academically and athletically at Southern. A 1991 graduate with a B.S.B.A. degree in economics and finance, he also participated in the school's summer program at Oxford University.

The lefthander played a key role in helping the Lions to the 1991 Division II World Series, which turned out to be an extremely bittersweet trip. While Grundt and the Lions were in Montgomery, Ala., for the series, his maternal grandmother passed away. A day later, Grundt started for the Lions against Longwood and (future major leaguer) Michael Tucker.

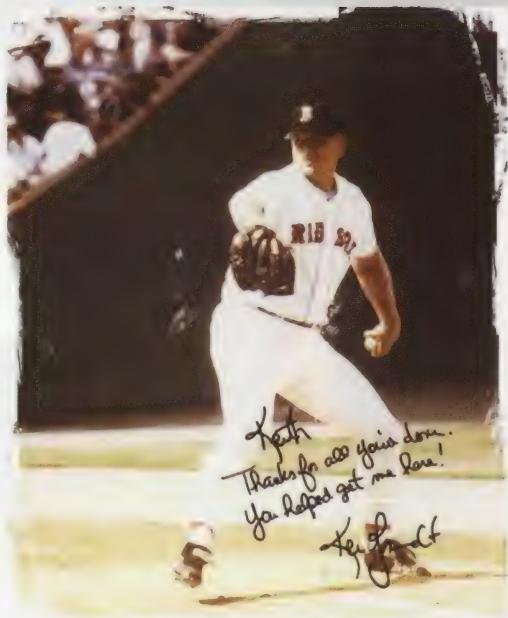
"There was a lot of discussion about what I should do at the time. It was one of the things you look back on now and realize that there was something greater at work than met the eye," Grundt says.

Grundt and the Lions eventually made it to the national championship game against Jacksonville State, but he says the four games leading up to the final wore down the available arms.

"Everyone was gassed. Every pitcher was getting ultrasound treatment before the game. We had a lead in the first inning, but we were done."

Jacksonville State took the title game 20-4.

Weeks later, the New York Yankees made Brien Taylor the





first pick of the 1991 baseball draft. Fifty-three rounds later, the San Francisco Giants took Ken Grundt (Lions Tim Casper and Tim Luther were also drafted by the Giants in '91). Taylor never pitched in the majors, but Grundt did. (Sixteen years later, a draft analysis website called baseballcube.com rates Grundt as the best pick the Giants made that year.)

But after a promising first year in A-ball, Grundt fell victim to arm trouble. Doctors found partial tears of his rotator cuff and labrum. Two surgeries would keep him on the shelf all of 1993, and the Giants released him.

After spending 1994 in independent league baseball, baseball's labor wars opened the door for Grundt's return to big time baseball. After the strike washed out the end of the '94 season, owners were determined to start 1995 on time — even if it meant using replacement players. Grundt signed with the Colorado Rockies, and made the "replacement" major league team (alongside Joplin, Mo., native Alan Cockrell).

"We were the team that opened Coors Field against the Yankees in spring of '95," Grundt said. But on the eve of the season's start, the owners and the players union made peace, and the replacement Rockies were in the wind. Grundt was assigned to A-ball. At 25 years old, he was the oldest player in the South Atlantic League. But he had a good season in Asheville, N.C., New Haven and Colorado Springs; good enough to catch the eye of the Boston Red Sox, who signed him to a minor league contract in 1996. Pitching in Pawtucket, Grundt finally got the big call on Aug. 8.

"I had a place with Nomar [Garcia] and [Jeff] Suppan at the time. I went out to get some dry cleaning and have the oil changed on my car," Grundt said. "This was back before cell phones. When I got back, Nomar said 'Where have you been? You got called up.' I said 'No I didn't. Who really called?'"

# Within hours, Grundt was at Fenway Park.

"I missed BP (batting practice). The first guy who meets me in the clubhouse, first guy I see is Scott Hatteberg. He says 'Grunter, you got called up, great!' Fifteen minutes later, Hatteberg gets sent down. He was the move to make room for me."

While he didn't pitch that night, Grundt made his major league debut the next afternoon against the Toronto Blue Jays. With his parents in the stands, the lefty was called in.

"As I was warming up, [relief pitcher] Heathcliff Slocumb said, 'Just make sure you get the first out; some guys don't even do that.' First guy I face is Ed Sprague. Grounded him out. But then John Olerud doubles off the wall. End of appearance."



## Grundt made his major league debut the next afternoon against the Toronto Blue Jays

Grundt would stay with the team a total of eight days, but that would be his only 1996 appearance. But the next May, he found himself called up again, just in time to head to Kansas City, and plenty of his Missouri friends ready to cheer.

"It was strange for me to borrow comp tix from veterans who I hardly knew. They were asking 'How many people can you know in Missouri?'"

Grundt got to face the Royals, then after riding the pine for a swing through Minnesota ("I got to see (former Lion teammates) Scott Babb, Mike Ashmore, and Bob Kneefe there"), the Red Sox headed to Grundt's hometown of Chicago, where he got the chance to face his childhood idols, the Chicago White Sox. He pitched two innings in that game, retiring Albert Belle in the process.

"After Chicago we headed to New York to face the Yankees. I was warming up to face Wade Boggs with the bases loaded, but the call never came," Grundt says.

After the game the news got worse. His former roommate, Jeff Suppan, was coming back to the active roster. Grundt was sent down to make room. He never made it back to the majors.

"[Red Sox Manager] Jimy Williams wanted me to work on throwing a change-up, something lefthanded relievers don't really throw a lot. But my AAA pitching coach didn't like that idea much, and told me to keep doing what I was doing."

After a short stint in the Florida Marlins' minors in 1998, Grundt's baseball career was over.

"I had a marriage [to former Scranton ballgirl Amy Powell] on the horizon. The money I could live on back when I was single back in A-ball wasn't the money I could live on then."

These days Grundt lives in Scranton, Pa., with Amy and their 4-year old son Adam (who's a righthander). But he still thinks back to Southern, his days living in the residence halls and living at Joe Becker Stadium, eating MuttBurgers ("My cardiologist is happy that era ended"), which he says put him on the road for everything that's happened in his life.

"Southern was just one of those things that ended up being the right step. Some of my best friends to this day were from Southern. Coach [Warren] Turner, [Steve and Kermit] Luebber, [Mike] Hagedorn. They helped me get there. I got to pitch in the majors. Who knows, maybe I don't even meet my wife if I don't meet those guys first? That time really was something that still means a lot to me."

*Editor's Note: Erik Schrader is a news consultant for WJCL-TV & WTGS-TV in Savannah, Ga. He is married to 2000 MSSU graduate Sarah (Wheeler) Schrader. In his spare time he runs the SportsMusicBlog ([sportsmusicblog.blogspot.com](http://sportsmusicblog.blogspot.com)).*

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Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year (if MSSU Alumni): \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Received: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Spouse's Information

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Visit [www.mssu.edu/alumni](http://www.mssu.edu/alumni) or contact the Alumni Association for more information

# Missouri Southern Interna



# National Piano Competition

"... What wonderful people are being brought into this community and sharing their music."

by Kristopher Woody

One of the best-kept secrets in southwest Missouri is the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition. It not only brings the outside world to the Ozarks, but it has done much to put Joplin on the international map as well.

The MSIPC has hosted more than 350 competitors and 35 judges from more than 50 countries in the 20 years it has been in operation.

"It is a main attraction for people to come to southwest Missouri," said Vivian León, director of the MSIPC.

The MSIPC started in 1987 as a project of the music department at Missouri Southern and has since become a non-profit organization. It has been independent of Missouri Southern since 1993.

It takes two years to organize each competition. Right now, the organization is preparing a mailing of 14,000 that will invite competitors to apply for the 2008 competition.

The goal of the organization was to bring world-class cultural event to Joplin that would promote the appreciation



The MSIPC attracts the best pianists from around the world

of fine music and bring recognition to the University.

There are two divisions within the competition. The junior division is open to anyone 17 years old or younger and of any nationality.

Contestants must supply a 25 to 30-minute video or DVD that must include a prelude and fugue by Bach; an allegro movement of a sonata by Haydn; Mozart; as well as other sample playings of other composers' works. That is just to be considered to compete in the junior division of the competition.

The senior division of the competition is open to persons 18 to 30 years of age and of any nationality. Senior applicants must follow a similar regimen, but it is a little more strict. Out of the hundreds of applicants, only 35 are chosen to compete. They follow through several rounds of judging where they are known only by a number. Not even the judges know who is in the competition until the conclusion of the competition.

When the competitors come to Joplin, they stay with host families. There is a waiting list to be a host family for the competition. Most families consider it a great blessing to host one of these talented pianists, because of what they bring to the family

and the house the week that they are here.

"I'm much more appreciative of what goes on here (during the competition)," said Gil Stevens, whose household will be a first-time host family. "If more people would get involved they would really understand what wonderful people are being brought into this community and sharing their music."

Not only are the competitors the world's best of the best, but the judges are as well. They are also chosen from around the world and have requested to come to Joplin and judge the competition.

"The MSIPC has the chance to become one of the worlds biggest international competitions," said Natalya Antonova, a judge for the 11th annual event. "What a privilege for the residents of Joplin and regional communities to have a cultural event of this stature."

How does the MSIPC get all these great world-renowned pianists to come to Joplin to play?

Like with any competition there is a prize. The grand-prize winner not only receives a monetary prize but a debut concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The winner of the 2006 competition, Tatiana Tessman, has performed as a soloist and with an orchestra across Russia, Germany, Italy, Latin America and here in America, as well. Tessman began performing soon after her first piano lesson at the age of four. Her talent has lead to collaborations with leading orchestras and musicians.

Tessman studied at the Gnessins music school in Moscow,

## "The MSIPC has the chance to become one of the world's biggest international competitions."

the Moscow State Conservatory. After master classes with Mstislav Rostropovich, she was invited by the maestro to take part in two concerts with the symphony orchestra in Bavarian Radio and toured with the orchestra in Italy.

Tessman is currently studying with Stanislav Loudenith at Park University in Parkville, Mo. Tessman was back in the Joplin area the first of April for a week. She visited and performed at schools in the area.

"It went beautifully," León said. "We had visited quite a few schools, thousands of students; it was just amazing."

Tessman also conducted a class in Webster Hall Auditorium. Participating were two of Tessman's students and two graduate students from Pittsburg State University. After they performed, Tessman gave pointers and demonstrated in front an audience.

"It was really really good," León said. "She has very good teaching skills and she communicates well because she has a very charming personality. And the kids really learn a lot from her as well. The audience sitting there, listening, are learning too."



Preparations don't end once contestants reach The MSIPC.

This goes to prove that the best of the best come to play this competition.

"The competition wants to bring the best here for our citizens," León said

Around the world the MSIPC is known, but not as well known locally. Most do not know that the competition is a non-profit organization and not a part of Missouri Southern.

About two years ago, León was visiting the Central Conservatory in China. León and her group not only received the red-carpet treatment, but the red-carpet media treatment, as well. As they entered the building, she could hear a young 14-year-old boy playing. She asked if they could stop and listen.

"After he was done, I was amazed," León said.

The boy's teacher told León that he was good enough to go to the competition in Germany but not yet good enough to go to the competition in Missouri.

The 2008 competition is currently in the planning stages. It takes approximately two years to put together a competition and to get everything ready for host families and competitors. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the competition. Since the MSIPC is a non-profit organization, alumni, students or persons in the community can make a donation to keep this rich cultural event growing. To do so, persons may send donations to The Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, Mo. 64801.

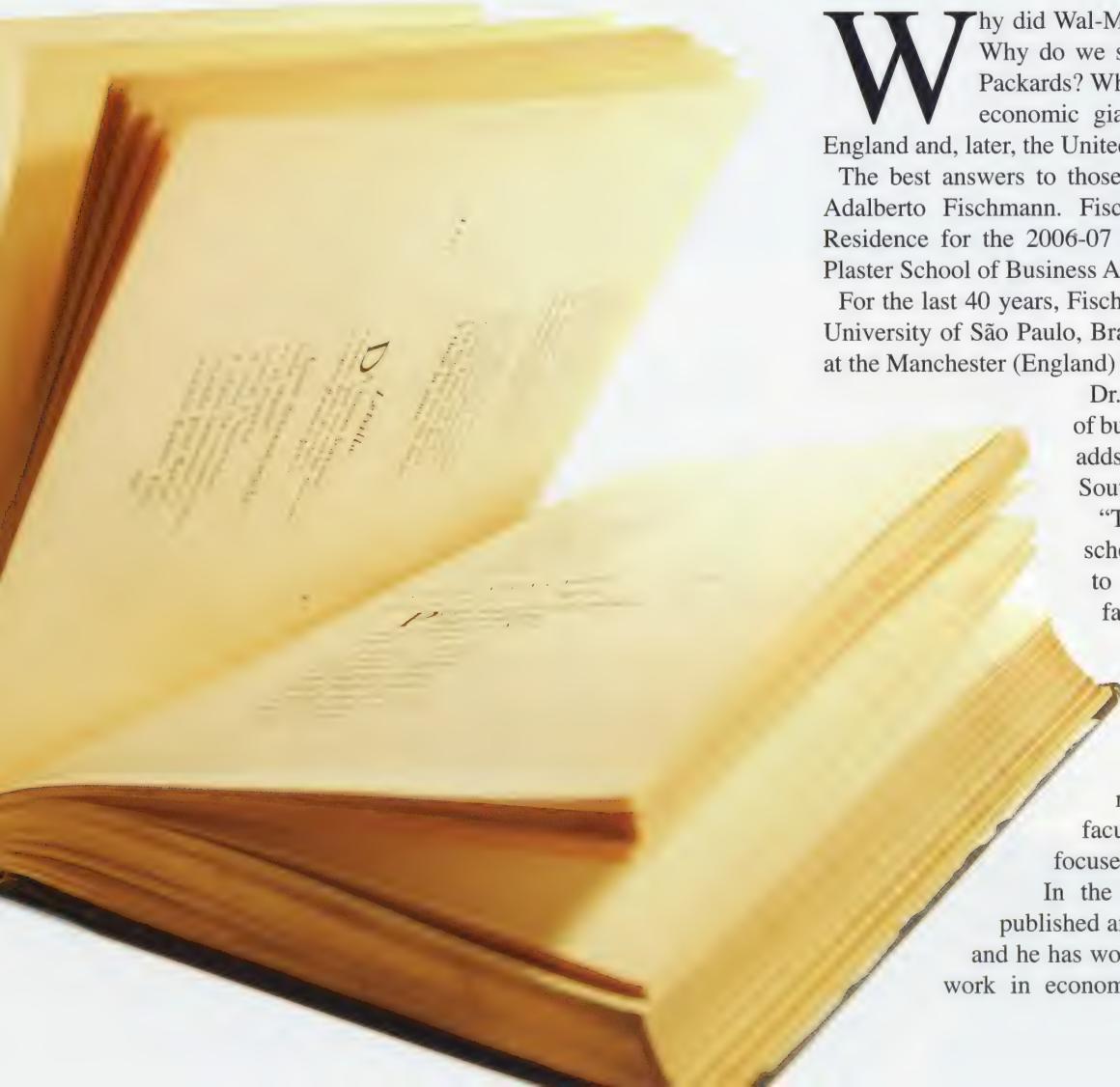
Tessman studied at the Gnessins music school in Moscow, the Moscow State Conservatory.



# Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Adalberto Fischmann Serving as Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence

by Stephen Ernest Smith, '77



Why did Wal-Mart succeed but K-Mart crumble? Why do we see Fords on the highway but no Packards? Why did Portugal and Spain — once economic giants — surrender their status to England and, later, the United States?

The best answers to those questions might come from Dr. Adalberto Fischmann. Fischmann is Fulbright Scholar in Residence for the 2006-07 academic year at the Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration.

For the last 40 years, Fischmann has been on the staff of the University of São Paulo, Brazil, following post-doctoral work at the Manchester (England) Business School.

Dr. Brad Kleindl, dean of the school of business, says Fischmann's presence adds to instruction at Missouri Southern.

"The Fulbright program allows the school of business the opportunity to have outstanding international faculty impact our students, faculty and local community," Kleindl said. "Dr. Fischmann has been a wonderful resource for our students and faculty. He has helped us in our international mission and has helped individual faculty become more internationally focused."

In the last five years, Fischmann has published and presented more than 40 papers, and he has won a wide variety of awards for his work in economics and education. His primary



academic interest is strategic management, the process by which a firm manages the formulation and implementation of its strategy.

By preparing a grid of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) businesses can use SWOT analysis to avoid market vulnerabilities.

Fischmann says the Nike corporation provides one example of creative strategic marketing. Nike uses low-cost labor in Malaysia, South America, China and other nations to keep costs low. This means U.S. workers do not have access to these jobs.

But think for a moment not about what Nike takes away, but what it keeps, he says. They keep the knowledge, the control, research and development, advertising and royalties from the overseas operations.

This is not bad, he adds. What *is* bad is social dumping. That happens when people in a third world nation work 12-14 hours a day or when child labor is being used. It is not fair to allow or even silently consent to this type of exploitation. Whenever operations of this type exist, they have to be shut down.

He says groups as the World Trade Organization and Greenpeace help combat social dumping.

He believes the problem with “illegal immigrants” is one that should be addressed by the government to business rather than with people.

“We should expect more of the employers than the illegals,” he says. “They are not to blame.”

Fischmann is one of approximately 800 educators taking part in

the Fulbright Scholars Program.

For the last half-century, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) has assisted in overseeing the program, the U.S. government’s academic exchange effort, on behalf of the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

How is the United States doing in strategically marketing itself?

Fischmann says despite a crippling trade deficit, the nation’s two most valuable resources continue to be its lack of corruption and its democratic institutions.

“It shouldn’t be a win-lose situation,” Fischmann says. “It should be a win-win situation.”

In the last five years, Fischmann has published and presented more than 40 papers, and he has won a wide variety of awards for his work in economics and education.

# Legislative Intern Program Helps Lawmakers, Students

by Stephen Ernest Smith, '77

**L**egislative Interns from Missouri Southern State University and other colleges and universities in the state play an important role in helping lawmakers get the job done.

There is much to accomplish in the Missouri Legislature's five-month session. During this time, more than 1,000 bills are written and filed but only about 100 of them are actually passed.

Many offices are understaffed. Interns, usually juniors and seniors with solid academic performance, work a 40-hour week during their 15 weeks in Jefferson City.

The Interns make their homes in Jefferson City during the session. Students put their in-class learning to practical use, says Dr. Tom Simpson, professor of political science and director of the Regional Economic Development Center at Southern.

The Internship broadens the academic experience, he says. The work is an excellent introduction to public service and internships are a political-junkie's dream -- daily work in the center of state power and routine contact with political celebrities.

Jacilyn Harris, who received a B.S. in political science from Southern last year, interned with Rep. Kevin Wilson (R-Neosho) and Rep. Bryan Stevenson (R-Joplin) in her senior year at Southern. She says an intern's days could last up to 18 hours near the end of the session.

"I really think it is an invaluable program," she said. "I never realized how much it would help me."

Skyler Ross, senior political science major from Joplin, says his interest in government goes back to grade school.

"Politics have interested me since I was old enough to

understand them," he said.

Ross says working with elected officials is not as imposing as he thought it might be.

"Elected officials are normal people," he said. "Most are down to earth and willing to help anyone out even though they are senators and representatives. They are not unapproachable."

The Missouri Legislature's session lasts from early January through mid-May. Interns tasks include:

- Helping constituents via phone, email or postage mail
- Accompanying legislators to hearings or to the House or Senate floor
- Attending committee hearings without legislators to take notes and report back to legislators
- Tracking bills while the House or Senate is in session
- Researching legislative ideas
- Leading tours of the Capitol
- Organizing binders of bills, votes, and other duties

In addition to Ross, students who took part during the spring 2007 semester included Joplin's Jonathan L. Russell, junior political science major; Sean Grove, junior



International Business major and Adam Hancock, junior political science/English major, both from Webb City; and Donavon Mays, sophomore political science major from Ft. Smith, Ark.

One important part of the Internship program is a mock legislative session. During that session, interns take on the roles of legislators, writing and passing (or voting down) new laws.

The mock session is a fantasy island for the interns, Simpson says. It gives them a chance to try their hands at the legislative process, political intrigue and other activities both in front of and behind the scenes, he adds.

Harris says the mock session involved creating a bill, strategizing and making multiple contacts with interns from other colleges and universities. Much of this came through personal conversations. She says the Missouri Southern group eventually passed a measure despite steep opposition.

"We saw, on a small scale, that allegiance is not guaranteed," she said. "People will sway very easily."

Harris says Kina Inman, Missouri Southern's lobbyist in Jefferson City, was an invaluable asset.

"She was there on a regular basis, checking on us, making sure we had what we needed, even taking us out to dinner," Harris said.

The real value in working in Jefferson City is the time you spend on the job, Ross says. Not many can say they have worked in two sessions at the State Capitol.

He says dealing with constituents

provided a level of contact with voters who held a variety of positions, and asked a large number of questions.

"I've had to talk to people telling me about an incredible number of issues," Ross said. "People wanting Representative Hunter to reduce ambulance bills or help them obtain dental care.

"You have to conduct yourself professionally. If you don't know how to do that, you have to learn pretty quickly."

Harris says her internship helped pave the way for her to obtain a job after graduation as a projects specialist at People's Bank of Seneca.

"I never realized how it would help me," she said. "It was a life experience."





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# Jordan takes Southern to Hollywood



by Stephen Ernest Smith, '77

If the face of the guy you see guest starring on *Cold Case*, *CSI* or some other network television program looks like the guy down the street, that's because it just might be!

James Jordan, 1997 graduate of Webb City High School and a 2002 Missouri Southern graduate, is making headway in Hollywood. Jordan, who began work on a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Acting in 2002 at UCLA's School of Theatre, Film and Television, completed his degree in June of 2005.

During graduate school, he says, he began to rub elbows with some well-known Hollywood personalities.

"At UCLA I had numerous leads in shows," Jordan says. "I studied acting with such artists as Anthony Hopkins, Annette Benning, Jason Alexander and the famous acting coach to the stars, Larry Moss. I also was able to collaborate with film directors and screenwriters. I made movies and shot 3-camera sitcom style comedy."

The glow of hot lights and smell of greasepaint are nothing new to James Jordan. The Southern graduate did nearly 40 shows in his time at Missouri Southern. They included *When You Comin' Back*, *Red Ryder*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Sticks and Bones*.

He also directed the plays *Lone Star* and *The Zoo Story* for the Missouri Southern stage.

"The biggest challenge to this business so far is trying to set yourself apart from the pack," Jordan comments. "There are just so many thousands of actors in this city and there are probably a few hundred

who are your twins in every way. I've actually been mistaken for another actor who works quite a bit. One time a casting director asked if he was my older brother! So, that's the biggest challenge — to be a beat ahead and a beat apart."

Jordan says any success he has will be due in large part to his University training, his agents and manager and his own passion and perseverance: "I've been pretty busy," he laughs.

At the present time, Jordan is busy in Los Angeles getting ready for pilot season. His agents and manager are submitting him for other roles in films and television. He also is routinely meeting with Executives from NBC, Warner Bros., Fox, Touchstone, Sony and Universal.

"This is all in an attempt to get 'known' to people in the industry," he says. "That way they will have the chance to keep me in mind for future and existing projects."

Jordan has guest starred on *CSI*, *Over There*, *Cold Case*, *Close to Home*, and *Just Legal*. He has also appeared in the motion picture *Seraphim Falls* which stars

Pierce Brosnan and Liam Neeson among others. Along the way, he has paid his dues as an actor by waiting tables when auditions and roles were scarce.

He says among the many people who influenced him and his career path were his family, in particular, his mother, Chris Jordan Meadows of Oronogo, and his stepfather, Charles Meadows: "They've always been incredibly supportive of my career choice," the young actor says. "I always dragged them to my plays at Southern and they never missed one."

"Being a professional actor is an amazing privilege," he says. "You get to travel, be seen, play, make good money, and have a career that is in some ways immortal. Your body of work will certainly outlive you."

He credits all his teachers at MSSU and UCLA as well as Sean Penn, whom he calls "a genius" and someone to whom he has been compared ("the greatest compliment I've ever had," James says). Others he counts as inspirations are Jack Lemmon, Kevin Spacey, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Billy Bob Thornton ("who spent a decade not working as an actor and almost starving to death in the pursuit of his dream").

"I have to say human nature itself is a big influence," Jordan concludes. "The mystery of life is so interesting to me. I guess I'm just trying to figure it out."

"Seraphim Falls", a western that Jordan shot last year, has recently opened in limited release. It stars Liam Neeson and Pierce Brosnan.

*Actor James Jordan, now working in Hollywood, has landed roles in Cold Case, CSI and other top-rated television programs.*

# Christy takes Homeland Security assignment

Dr. Greg Christy, DVM, graduated from Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Mo., in 1980 with a B.S. in biology. From there, he went on to earn his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984.

From 1986 until 2000, Christy opened and operated Carthage Animal Hospital and Central Pet Care Clinic as well as VSSI, a veterinary equipment manufacturing business in Carthage, Mo. During this time, he also took time to share his knowledge of and love for animals working as an adjunct professor at Missouri Southern State until 2001.

Christy served as an Army Reserve Veterinary Corps Officer until he was honorably discharged in 2005.

In 2001, Christy took his expertise to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry where he is still currently employed. He is the division's Emergency Programs Administrator, but his extensive background also resulted in his appointment as State Emergency Coordinating Officer for Animal and Agricultural issues (ESF 17) for the State Emergency Operations Center, and Director of the State Agricultural Response Team (SART).

Christy's emergency response skills were put to the test when he was asked to act as the state's emergency coordinating officer for all animal and agricultural issues during the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons. The record seasons produced eight significant hurricanes during which Christy efficiently and effectively responded to the needs of the agriculture industry, livestock and



Dr. Greg Christy at Waveland, Miss., during Hurricane Katrina response efforts.

the sheltering of pets.

Perhaps the most memorable hurricane occurred in 2005 when Katrina slammed into numerous states including Louisiana and Mississippi. A call for desperately needed help was put out by officials in those states. Specifically, Mississippi's state veterinarian requested that experts travel to that state to coordinate and assist with the animal response activities. Christy immediately guided a team of state and federal responders to the ravaged areas to help. Despite working under primitive conditions often with no utilities or comfortable accommodations the teams stayed until the job was complete.

Christy also coordinated and led a multi-agency field exercise to test the ability of the participants to respond to an outbreak of avian flu in a commercial poultry operation. The mock outbreak provided the agencies involved with a clear picture of their strengths and weaknesses when responding to such an event. Christy's understanding of the need for extensive training among program personnel and public information officials will help ensure a coordinated and effective response should an animal disaster occur.

Christy's emergency preparedness skills were recognized by federal officials who offered him a one

year, special assignment in Washington D.C. at the Department of Homeland Security, where he is currently on temporary assignment.

As an associate in the Infrastructure Partnership Division, Christy will have an opportunity to impact policy and procedures relating to animal, agricultural and food security issues across the United States.

Christy is currently working on the writing team tasked with rewriting the National Response Plan (NRP) and with leading the effort to update the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) for the Food and Agriculture Sector. The NRP establishes a comprehensive all-hazards approach to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents. It forms the basis of how the federal government coordinates with state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector during incidents. HSIN is a computer-based counter-terrorism communications system connecting all 50 states, five territories, Washington, D.C., and 50 major urban areas

"I have an opportunity to bring a state perspective to the federal emergency preparation and response managers in Washington D.C." Christy says.

## Class Notes

As of March 30, 2007

### 1990s

**Paula Bliesath, Class of 1992,** is an English and Speech Teacher at Commerce High School in Commerce, Okla.

**Allison (Grosse) Craig, Class of 1996,** is the Communications Specialist, Marketing and PR at St. John's Regional Medical Center.

**Dennis Divine, Class of 1991,** is the Engineering Technical Writer, Space Power Facility at EaglePicher Technologies, LLC.

**James Richard Goff, III, Class of 1993,** is a writer/producer for WFAA-TV in Dallas, Texas. He has won two Emmies and a Promax Award.

**Aileen Gronewold, Class of 1998,** is the Corporate Governance Manager at Leggett and Platt Inc.

**Robin McAlester, Class of 1998,** is the Development Director of Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center.

**Jeff Musick, Class of 1990,** is the Human Resources Team Leader at Schreiber Foods.

**Michael Petersen, Class of 1995,** is the regional account manager for Abbott Laboratories in Louisiana.

**Honey (Scott) Pickren, Class of 1994,** is the owner of Taneycomo Projects, Inc.

**Debra Schow-Smith, Class of 1997,** is the Director of Member Services for the Carthage, Mo. Chamber of Commerce.

**Rodney Shetler, Class of 1992,** is the Journalism Department Head/English Teacher at Marshfield Schools.

**Melissa (Boyer) Smith, Class of 1999,** is the Admissions Counselor and A+ Coordinator at Crowder College.

**Richard Spille, Class of 1992,** is manager of technical services at the Bama Corporation.

**Brad Stone, Class of 1991,** is an Employee Benefits Insurance Account Executive at Insurancenter.

### 2000s

**Taffy Coker, Class of 2000,** is a Medical Claims Adjuster for Guarantee Insurance Company.

**Jacob Evans, Class of 2005,** recently been accepted into the Masters of Arts Program in Historic and Systematic Theology at Wheaton College.

**T.J. Gerlach, Class of 2006,** is News Page Designer for the Tulsa World, Tulsa, Okla.

**Charles Highland, Class of 2003,** is in the United States Marine Corps. He has served two tours of duty in Iraq, receiving a Purple Heart in his first tour.

**Tanya Klue, Class of 2005,** is a Targeted Case Manager at the Ozark Center.

**Robert Moss, Class of 2004,** is currently an Americorps Volunteer, working directly for the Habitat for Humanity in Knoxville, Tenn. Moss' responsibilities include running the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store, which funds various Habitat for Humanity projects in the Knoxville area. Additionally, he works on Habitat homes for Tennessee residents.

**Naoko Onoda, Class of 2006,** is an interpreter and translator for Kove Aluminum Automotive Production in Kentucky.

**Vince Sweeney, Class of 2002,** is a Graphic Designs Specialist at Tyson Foods, Inc.

**Kristal Swopes, Class of 2000,** is a Vocational Business Teacher at Columbus Unified High School.

**Elisha (Bonnot) Thornhill, Class of 2000,** is a graphic arts specialist with the Division of Geology and Land Survey (DGLS), and has been named Missouri Department of Natural Resources' January 2007 Employee of the Month.

**Roger Wrestler, Class of 2000,** is a shareholder in the former Hardy & Associates CPA firm, now known as Hardy, Wrestler and Associates, CPAs PC.

## TALKtoUS

Tell us about yourself! The Missouri Southern Alumni Association will post news of alumni in each issue of Crossroads. Tell us about births, career changes, retirements and other achievements. We want to keep in touch with you!

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MSSU class year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Send information to:  
MSSU Alumni Association, 3950  
East Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801  
or by Fax to the Alumni Office at  
(417) 625-3085.

# Southern to honor Plaster with degree

During this spring's commencement, Robert W. Plaster is scheduled to receive the first honorary degree in Missouri Southern's history.

Due to his significant contributions to Missouri Southern and society, Plaster will be awarded the Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa. Dr. Julio León, University president, said the award is well-earned.

"He's a fine gentleman and well-known entrepreneur," he said. "This is a milestone in the history of our University and to be able to grant our first honorary doctorate to one of the outstanding citizens of Missouri is a great privilege."

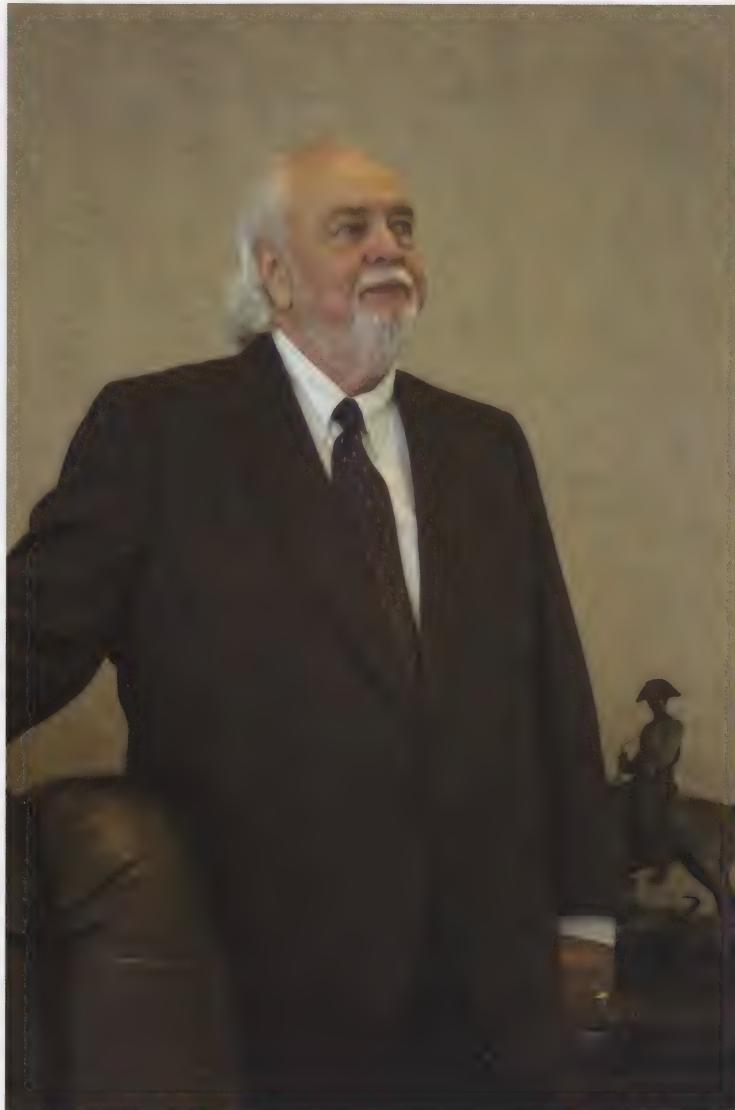
León does not discount the possibility that Southern may confer more honorary degrees in the future.

"It's quite possible," León said. "It is the practice of an institution to recognize fine individuals."

Plaster was the founder and longtime CEO of Empire Gas. He is Chairman of Evergreen Investments, LLC, a multi-million dollar development corporation. The Plaster family has been named one of the top 25 wealthiest families in the Midwest.

Plaster is a significant benefactor to higher education in southwest Missouri. He has also supported Southwest Baptist University, School of the Ozarks, Crowder College and Missouri State University.

Plaster attended Joplin Junior College in the 1950s and studied accounting.



## Richard eyes speakership, healthcare

One Missouri Southern alumnus is looking to the future and hoping that future includes him serving as speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives.

Rep. Ron Richard (R-Joplin) graduated from Missouri Southern in 1969 and he is eyeing a run at the top spot in Missouri's lower chamber.

Richard said he has a few goals in mind to make the speakership a reality. First of all, Richard must help maintain a Republican majority in the House. He will have to recruit and attain 'top-quality' candidates. Then he said he will have to put them into position to pass key legislation in the future.

Richard said once he attains the speaker position there are many different issues he would like to focus on.

"We need to make sure healthcare is affordable and accessible to Missourians," Richard said.

He also plans to continue improving highway and waterway systems. Along with making sure Missouri has plenty of 'quality jobs' available to its residents.

He will also continue the discussion to keep universities affordable, attract quality professors to Missouri and give students as many scholarships as possible.

Richard has degrees from two

Missouri colleges.

He graduated from Southern in the first year the University offered bachelor's degrees. Richard earned a degree in history and minors in political science and English. Then, in 1972, he was in the first class to graduate from Southwest Missouri State as a university.

"Missouri Southern is always on my mind," Richard said. "Not just because I'm a graduate. It's important to the community. I was there when it started. And I'd like to make it better."

*This report was provided by Parker Willis, Managing Editor of The Chart.*

alumni news

# Southern baseball icon to hang up cleats

Warren Turner, head baseball coach at Missouri Southern since 1976 and one of the winningest coaches in collegiate baseball, has announced his retirement, effective at the end of the current school year.

With 849 victories, Turner ranks eighth overall among active Division II baseball coaches and 12th overall on the all-time Division II coaching list.

During his lengthy career at Missouri Southern, Turner took five teams to national tournaments. His 1978 squad finished second to Emporia State in the NAIA World Series in St. Joseph, Mo., and Turner was named NAIA national coach of the year that season.

Turner's 1986 and 1987 squads competed in the NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho, finishing seventh and fifth, respectively.

He coached Missouri Southern to two NCAA Division II World Series in Montgomery, Ala. The Lions finished second in 1991 and tied for fifth the following year.

Turner was elected to the NAIA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2004 and has been nominated for induction into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Missouri Southern Hall of Fame and the Joplin Sports Authority Hall of Fame.

"I've been very fortunate to have been at Missouri Southern these past 30 some years," Turner said. "Dr. (Leon) Billingsly hired me and I've continued to work under the leadership of Dr. (Julio) León. I've worked for two athletic directors, Jim Frazier and Sallie Beard, and they've been great to work for."

"Over the years, we've had some outstanding players, many of whom have gone on to play professional baseball. You don't win 800 games without good players and the help of some dedicated coaches, many of them volunteers."

"Tim Doss, a former Southern player, was one of my first coaches," Turner recalled. "But Steve Luebber has been a fixture during the winter months and Mike Hagedorn helped me more than 25 years. Other assistants over the years included Kermit Luebber, Jeff Velliquette, Ted Flora, Bob Tignor, Loren Olson and the two young men we have this season, Will Ramos and Drew Endicott. And, although he never was a coach, the late Ferrell Anderson used to conduct clinics for our team. He was a great friend."

"Also, I would be remiss if I didn't thank those people who helped behind the scenes, people like Mutt Miller, Leroy Wilson, Kelly Meadows, Cotton Dye, Barbara Hereford, Ray Younger and Lisa Phelps who worked in the concession stand. There were other friends who helped me work on the field at



Joe Becker Stadium and provided indoor practice facilities for us during the winter months when we couldn't get outside. The 203rd Engineer Battalion of the Missouri National Guard helped me with work on Joe Becker Stadium and Jim Wilkinson, Gary Hall, Rob Clay and David Taylor provided indoor practice facilities for us."

Looking back on his career at Southern, Turner said the national tournaments were highlights, but competing against numerous NCAA Division I schools were exciting challenges for the program.

"Over the years we played Arkansas, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Texas Christian, Illinois, Texas Tech, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas State, Kansas, Iowa State and Oral Roberts," Turner recalled. "We lost more than we won, but I believe our players enjoyed the competition."

Many of Turner's players entered the coaching field and have enjoyed success at the high school level.

"Some of them are coaching more than baseball, but most of them have been successful in the coaching field," Turner said. He listed Kirk Harryman, Scott Madden, Bryce Darnell, Flave Darnell, Tim Casper, Kevin Marsh, Tony Tichy and Jonathan Wengert as players who immediately came to mind who entered the coaching field.

"I'm proud of the players who gave pro baseball a shot," Turner said. "Kenny Grundt (left-hand pitcher) reached the majors with the Boston Red Sox and others did well in the minor leagues, players like David Fisher, Tim Casper, Rich Cannon, Chuck Pittman, Danny Rogers, Rick Berg, Scott Wright, Jim Baranoski, Randy Braun, Danny Pinkerton, Tim Luther, Jeremy McMullen and Jeff Taylor."

Turner won't leave the player cupboard bare for his successor.

"We have a pretty good group of players coming back," he said. "The new coach will have to bring in some junior college pitchers and another player or two."

# Britton to represent Southern in Barbados

Junior shooting guard T.J. Britton will be wearing a jersey this summer that is not green and gold. It will be red, white and blue.

Britton will be participating in the USA Athletes International Bajan Friendship Series in Barbados this summer. Bajan is a popular term used for citizens of Barbados. Every summer the USAAI selects a team of players from every college division, including the NAIA, to travel overseas and conduct basketball camps and play in exhibition games.

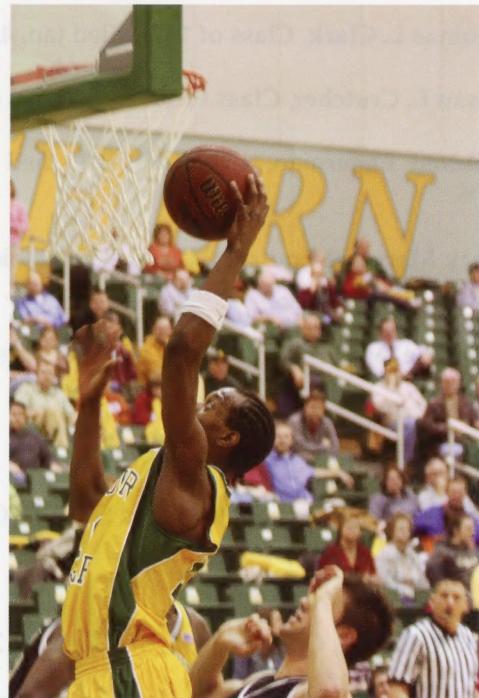
"I don't know what I will be teaching in the clinic," Britton said. "I think they are going to watch us play for a while and then decide."

"They said that they thought I was a good slasher and ball handler."

There are only 10 players selected to play on this team. The players hail from Minnesota, Virginia, North Carolina, and Texas. Britton is the only player from Missouri going on the trip.

"I was the only player from the conference selected to play" Britton said. "That's crazy because we had some of the highest scorers in Division II in the MIAA but only I got picked."

"It should be a very positive experience," head basketball coach Robert Corn said. "We have sent some players in the past and it has always proven to be a good experience."



## Lion athletes place at indoor nationals

Junior thrower Jessica Selby finished second in the shot put and all three men's vaulters placed in the top ten in the final day at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field National Championships.

Selby placed second to Bemidji State's Sheena Devine. Selby tossed a new school record 50 feet, six and three quarters of an inch in her second attempt on the day. That bested her previous school record of 49 feet, three inches which she threw earlier in the year and stood as the longest toss in the event until Devine broke out a throw of 51 feet and a quarter inch in her final attempt to win the National Championship.

## Rutledge, Selby garner major honors

Missouri Southern head track and field coach Tom Rutledge has been named the MIAA Coach, as well as Track and Field Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year. Southern junior thrower Jessica Selby was named the Track and Field Coaches Association Regional Field Athlete of the Year, as well.

Rutledge led the Lions to their first MIAA Title since 2004 when both the men's and women's squads swept at home. Southern went 1, 2, 3 and 6 in the Pole Vault with Seager Wilson capturing his first individual title. High jumper Chris Brown set a personal best and won the MIAA High Jump individual title helping the Lions to a four point win.

Wilson, Russell Ellis, and Jacob Williams, along

Jacob Williams, Russell Ellis and Seager Wilson finished fourth, sixth and eighth respectively in the men's pole vault. Williams vaulted to a height of 16 feet, four inches in his second to last vault to finish fourth. Ellis also cleared 16-4, while Wilson cleared 16 feet. The trio continued Southern's domination of the pole vault in recent years. The Lions were the only school to have multiple top ten finishers, much less three.

Earlier in the meet, Erica Culver finished 13th in the women's pole vault and Chris Brown was 10th in the high jump.

with Brown have all qualified for the NCAA National Meet in Boston later this week. Missouri Southern went 1, 2 in the pole vault at last year's nationals with Matt Campbell taking home the National Championship, while Kyle Rutledge finished second.

Selby won her third straight MIAA shot put title this year and automatically qualified for the NCAA National Meet earlier in the year with a school record throw of 49 feet, three inches. Selby, along with pole vaulter Erica Culver both competed in the national meet in Boston.

Selby finished second in the shot put, throwing 15.41m and being only one of two throwers to break 15m in the meet.

SPORTS

As of March 30, 2007:

**Darrell G. Bufford** died Dec. 17, 2006.

**Thomas L. Clark, Class of 1971**, died Jan. 4, 2007.

**Susan E. Crutcher, Class of 1971**, died Jan. 6, 2007.

**Mildred Eggerman, Class of 1943**, died Dec. 10, 2006.

**Mary Margaret Endicott, Class of 1991**, died Jan. 9, 2007.

**Marjorie M. Findley, Class of 1941**, died Jan. 5, 2007.

**Fred Hadley** died Nov. 16, 2006.

**Craig Kissee, Class of 1998**, died Sept. 8, 2006.

**D.T. Knight Jr.** died Nov. 18, 2006.

**Jack R. LaRue, Class of 1991**, died Jan. 16, 2007.

**Mignon H. McClain, Class of 1943**, died March 20, 2007

**Roger Joe McFadden, Class of 1966**, died Jan. 7, 2007.

**Bradley Steven Richardson, Class of 1991**, died March 21, 2007

**Parker O. Rogers, Class of 1940**, died Feb. 10, 2007.

**Carol Ann Rusch, Classes of 1980 and 1998**, died Sept. 15, 2006.

**Rev. Gerald Preston Sappington, Class of 1955**, died Oct. 12, 2006.

**Rex Sisco** died March 23, 1998.

**Muriel Grace Smith, Class of 1940**, died Sept. 24, 2006.

**James W. Wiggins, Class of 1940**, died Jan. 26, 2007.

**M**issouri Southern State University honors those alumni who have recently passed away. Please contact us at (417) 625-9355 or email [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu) for any additions to the next issue.

## Former Lions coach Lantz dies at 53, leaves legacy

Located on the creek bed on the campus of Ozark Christian College are three crosses and a sign which reads "not to be served, but to serve."

The phrase not only serves as a reminder of purpose for the college, but also is the best way to remember one of Missouri Southern's own.

Former Lions head football coach Jon Lantz passed away March 3 from an apparent aneurysm. Only 54 years old, Lantz made an impact as a coach for Edmond Memorial High School, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Southern. Academically, he continued to be a leader at OCC and at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M.

"He was a true leader of people," NEO football coach Rob Green said. "He was a person who was driven to do things. As a football coach, he wanted to be the best. The same went for his work in administration."

Green knew Lantz for 28 years, coaching with Lantz at both the high school and collegiate level. They coached together at Putnam City (Okla.) West and Edmond Memorial high schools, and also at Southern. Green finished the 1997 season as head coach after Lantz resigned midseason.

At Southeastern Oklahoma State, Lantz won NAIA coach of the year in 1988, leading the Savage Storm to a conference championship into the second round of the NAIA playoffs. For Southern fans, the image they

mostly remember of Lantz is his raising the MIAA Conference trophy above his head in 1993.

"Jon Lantz represents an era we were proud of," Sallie Beard, Southern's athletic director said. "He left a very lasting impression and a legacy that we are proud of."

"His 1993 team was about as good as the MIAA teams today," Pittsburg State football coach Chuck Broyles said.

Though Lantz had been out of coaching for several years, his legacy still touched current Lions' head football coach Bart Tatum.

"Jon Lantz was a huge support to us behind the scenes," he said. "He dropped in on more than one occasion to say he was excited about what we've been doing."

He will always be remembered as friend, coach, rival, mentor, and leader.

"Jon had a great sense of humor and a great personality off the field," Broyles said. "When we went to coaches meetings, he was the guy I wanted to go play golf with."

"I told the staff the mentality of the program is going to be 'Let's continue building something Jon Lantz would be proud of,'" Tatum said.

*This report was provided by Hobie Brown, Chart associate editor.*

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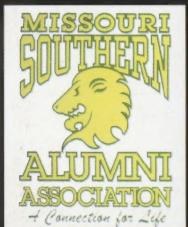
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